

- a) organizing a network of people with disabilities and of volunteers for helping people with disabilities, each of the persons with disabilities and each of the volunteers having a portable, wireless communications device;
- b) establishing a database having information about the people with disabilities and about the volunteers, said information identifying (1) for each of the persons with disabilities, at least one specific disability said person has, and (2) for each of the volunteers, at least one specific disability said volunteer is willing to assist;
- c) at least one of the persons with disabilities, using one of the wireless communications devices to transmit a request for help; and
- d) matching at least one of the volunteers with said at least one of the persons with disabilities by finding, through said database, one of the volunteers who is willing to assist with the specific disability said at least one of the persons with disabilities has, and said at least one of the volunteers receiving the request for help via one of the wireless communications devices.

5. (Once Amended) A method according to Claim 2, wherein:

the step of establishing a database includes the steps of

- i) establishing a first database having information about the persons with disabilities, and
ii) establishing a second database having information about the volunteers; and

the matching step includes the step of the network searching the first and second databases to select and match volunteers and people with disabilities.

6. (Once Amended) A method according to Claim 2, wherein the matching step includes the step of:

using a matching server to search the people with disabilities and the volunteers to find a list of candidate volunteers and methods of help;
sending a request to each of the candidate volunteers;
interacting with the candidate volunteers to find a final choice volunteer; and
sending a final request to the final choice volunteer.

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7. (Once Amended) A system for providing help to people with disabilities, comprising:
a network of people with disabilities and of volunteers for helping people with disabilities, each of the persons with disabilities and each of the volunteers having a portable, wireless communications device; and
a database having information about the people with disabilities and about the volunteers, said information identifying (1) for each of the persons with disabilities, at least one specific disability said person has, and (2) for each of the volunteers, at least one specific disability said volunteer is willing to assist;
at least one of the persons with disabilities using one of the wireless communications devices to transmit a request for help; and
matching at least one of the volunteers with said at least one of the persons with disabilities by finding, through said database, one of the volunteers who is willing to assist with the specific disability said at least one of the persons with disabilities has, and said at least one of the volunteers receiving the request for help via one of the wireless communications devices.

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11. (Once Amended) A system according to Claim 8, wherein:
the database includes

- i) a first database having information about the persons with disabilities, and
ii) a second database having information about the volunteers; and
the matching means includes means for searching the first and second databases to select and match volunteers and people with disabilities.

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12. (Once Amended) A system according to Claim 8, wherein the matching means includes:
a matching server to search the people with disabilities and the volunteers to find a list of candidate volunteers and methods of help;
means for sending a request to each of the candidate volunteers;
means for interacting with the candidate volunteers to find a final choice volunteer; and
means for sending a final request to the final choice volunteer.

13. (Once Amended) A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for providing help to people with disabilities, said method steps comprising:
a) organizing a network of people with disabilities and of volunteers for helping people with disabilities, each of the persons with disabilities and each of the volunteers having a portable, wireless communications device;
b) establishing a database having information about the people with disabilities and about the volunteers, said information identifying (1) for each of the persons with disabilities, at least one specific disability said person has, and (2) for each of the volunteers, at least one specific disability said volunteer is willing to assist;

c) at least one of the persons with disabilities, using one of the wireless communications devices to transmit a request for help; and

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d) matching at least one of the volunteers with said at least one of the persons with disabilities by finding, through said database, one of the volunteers who is willing to assist with the specific disability said at least one of the persons with disabilities has, and said at least one of the volunteers receiving the request for help via one of the wireless communications devices.

17. (Once Amended) A program storage device according to Claim 14, wherein:

the step of establishing a database includes the steps of

i) establishing a first database having information about the persons with disabilities, and

ii) establishing a second database having information about the volunteers; and

the matching step includes the step of the network searching the first and second databases to select and match volunteers and people with disabilities.

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18. (Once Amended) A program storage device according to Claim 14, wherein the matching step includes the step of:

using a matching server to search the people with disabilities and the volunteers to find a list of candidate volunteers and methods of help;

sending a request to each of the candidate volunteers;

interacting with the candidate volunteers to find a final choice volunteer; and

sending a final request to the final choice volunteer.
